

WEST END MOVIES

Sunday night 8.45

"The Scarlet Car"

COMEDY

"Rip Snoring Night"

ADMISSION:

Front Seats.....10c.
Back Seats.....05c.

68TH CONGRESS,
1ST SESSION.

S 2786

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 10, 1924.

Mr. McLEAN (by request) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Territories and Insular Possessions.

A BILL

to provide a civil government for the Virgin Islands, and for other purposes.

(Concluded from yesterday's Avis.)

If any bill presented to the governor contains several items for the appropriation of money he may object to one or more of such items, or any part or parts, portion or portions thereof, while approving of the other portion of the bill. In such case he shall append to the bill, at the time of signing it, a statement of the items, parts, or portions thereof to which he objects, and the appropriation so objected to shall not take effect. If any bill shall not be returned by the governor within ten days (Sunday excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, it shall be a law in like manner as if he had signed it, unless the legislature by adjournment prevents its return, in which case it shall be a law if signed by the governor within thirty days after receipt by him; otherwise it shall not be a law. All laws enacted by the Council of the Virgin Islands shall be reported to the Congress of the United States, which hereby reserves the power and authority to annul the same. If at the termination of any fiscal year the appropriations necessary for the support of the government for the ensuing fiscal year shall not have been made, then the several sums appropriated in the last appropriation bills for the objects and purposes therein specified, so far as the same may be applicable, shall be deemed to be reappropriated, item by item; and until the legislature shall act in such behalf, the treasurer shall, with the advice of the governor, make the payments necessary for the purpose aforesaid.

Each house shall keep a journal of its proceedings and may, in its discretion, from time to time publish the same, and the yeas and nays on any question shall, on the demand of one-fifth of the members present be entered on the journal.

The general appropriation bill shall embrace nothing but appropriations for the ordinary expenses of the executive, legislative, and judicial departments, interest on the public debt, and for public schools. All other appropriations shall be made by separate bills, each embracing but one subject.

SEC. 29. That at the first election held pursuant to this Act, the qualified electors shall be those having the qualifications under the present law. Thereafter voters shall be citizens of the United States, twenty-one years of age or over, and have such additional qualifications as may be prescribed by the Council of the Virgin Islands: *Provided*, That no property qualifications shall ever be imposed upon or required of any voter; nor shall any discrimination in qualification be made or based upon difference in color.

SEC. 30. That the legislative authority herein provided shall extend to all matters not locally inapplicable, including power to create, consolidate, and reorganize the municipalities so far as necessary, and to provide and repeal laws and ordinances therefor; also the power to alter, amend, modify, or repeal any or all laws and ordinances of every character now in force in the Virgin Islands or municipality or district thereof, in so far as such alteration, amendment, modification, or repeal may be consistent with the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 31. That the judicial power shall be rested in the courts and tribunals of the Virgin Islands now established and in operation under and by virtue of existing laws. The jurisdiction of said courts and the form of procedure in them and the various officers and attaches thereof, shall also continue to be as now provided until otherwise provided by law: *Provided, how ever*, That the Council of the Virgin Islands shall have authority from time to time, as it may see fit, not inconsistent with this Act, to organize, modify, or rearrange the courts and their jurisdiction and procedure, except that the right of review of any decision by writ of error or appeal as provided in section 2 of chapter 171 of the Statutes at Large of the United States (Act of March 3, 1917, to provide a temporary government for the West Indian Islands acquired by the United States from Denmark) shall not be abridged, altered, or destroyed.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

SEC. 32. That, except in the Act otherwise provided, the salaries of all officials of the Virgin Islands not appointed by the President shall be such and be so paid out of the revenues of the

Virgin Islands as shall from time to time be determined by the Council of the Virgin Islands and approved by the governor; and if the legislature shall fail to make an appropriation for such salaries, the salaries theretofore fixed shall be paid without the necessity of appropriations therefor. The salaries of all officers of the various officials appointed as herein provided by the President shall be paid by the Treasurer of the United States. The annual salary of the governor shall be \$7,000, and he shall be entitled to the occupancy of the building heretofore used by the chief executive of the Virgin Islands, with the furniture and effects therein free of rental.

Where any officer of the Virgin Islands is required by this Act to give a bond, the premium thereof shall be paid from the insular treasury.

SEC. 39. That nothing in this Act shall be deemed to impair or interrupt the jurisdiction of existing courts over matters pending therein, upon the approval of this Act, which jurisdiction is in all respects hereby continued, the purpose of this Act being to preserve the integrity of all of said courts and their jurisdiction until otherwise provided by law.

SEC. 40. That this Act shall take effect thirty days after its passage.

SEC. 41. That the laws and ordinances now in force in the Virgin Islands shall continue in force and effect, except as altered, amended, or modified herein, until altered, amended, or repealed by the legislative authority herein provided for the Virgin Islands or by Act of Congress of the United States; and such legislative authority shall have power when not inconsistent with this Act, to amend, alter, modify, or repeal any law or ordinance, civil or criminal, continued in force by this Act, as from time to time it may see fit.

SEC. 42. That all laws or parts of laws applicable to the Virgin Islands not in conflict with any of the provisions of this Act, including the laws relating to tariffs, customs, and revenues, are hereby continued in effect, and all laws and parts of laws inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed.

LOCAL

The joint meeting of the Colonial Councils of the Virgin Islands yesterday was presided over by the chairman of the St. Croix council, Hon. R. L. Merwin, by motion. The secretary of the St. Thomas council discharged the duties of that office. Practically all the members of both councils were present. After a heated discussion a resolution previously drafted by the St. Croix Council protesting against the passage of the senate bill No. 2763 to provide a civil government for the Virgin Islands and for other purposes, was voted for by the majority.